Share of Railways in petroleum product traffic

2181. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 47 per cent of the country's petroleum products in 1992-93 were carried by the Railways, whereas the share of Railways in petroleum product traffic fell down to 36 per cent in 2000-2001;

(b) if so, what has been the share of petroleum products traffic during the fiscal year 2001-2002; and

(c) how Government propose to augment the alternative sources, for making up this freight loss to the Railway revenue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 2001-02, so far (till January, 2002) Railways have been offered approximately 29.75 million tonnes of traffic which constitutes around 36% of the total POL consumption.

(c) There has been no loss of revenue to the Railways. Revenue earning from POL traffic has been Rs. 64.28 crores more as compared to the corresponding period of last year. Moreover, to attract additional POL traffic, Railways have for the first time, offered station to station rates. It has also reduced classification of various POL commodities in the Railway Budget, 2002-03, thereby reducing freight cost of POL products.

Trains halting at Ambala and Saharanpur

2182. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names and details of Mail and Express trains halting at Ambala Cantt. and Saharanpur stations;

(b) the platform-wise details and the names of the trains which halt at these stations during 24 hours;

(c) whether there is any criteria for fixing and placing of trains at the platforms for the convenience of the passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) and (d) The criteria for placing a train at the platform is fixed keeping in view the type of the train, schedule of the train and availability of platform.

Losses of Bhopal-New Delhi Shatabdi Express

†2183. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bhopal-New Delhi Shatabdi Express is running into heavy losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of measures being taken to save these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) Train-wise figures of profitability, earnings and expenditure are not maintained. However, on overall basis, Railways are making losses on passenger operations including other coaching services. The losses incurred on this account during last three years are as under.

Year	Losses (Rs. in crores)
1998-99	4165.50
1999-2000	4582.71
2000-01	4875.54

Indian Railways in the larger social and national interest has been undertaking certain uneconomic operations. This includes an element of cross subsidisation of passenger fares with freight charges.

(c) Constant efforts are made to cut down expenditure. Some rationalisation of passenger fares have been proposed in the current budget.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.